

PAG



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 United States Patent and Trademark Office
 Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
 www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/766,764	01/23/2001	Richard Louis Arndt	AUS920000447US1	1266

7590 08/28/2003

BRACEWELL & PATTERSON LLP
 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW
 POST OFFICE BOX 969
 AUSTIN, TX 78767-0969

EXAMINER

SCHNEIDER, JOSHUA D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2182

DATE MAILED: 08/28/2003

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/766,764

Applicant(s)

ARNDT ET AL.

Examiner

Joshua D Schneider

Art Unit

2182

B

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 May 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) 8.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 2182

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

B

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Andrew J. Dillon, Reg. No. 29,634, on 8/12/2003.

The application has been amended as follows: Claims 14-16 are cancelled



DETAILED ACTION

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 18, line 20, it appears that the word "he" should be "the". Please review the entire specification for this and other errors.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1 and 3, and dependent claims 2, and 4-6, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Art Unit: 2182

5. In claims 1 and 3, the term terminal bridge is not defined in the specification in such a way as to give clear indication as to what is being claimed. While the use of terminal bridges is shown in the drawings, and discussed in the specification, no definition is given to define the breadth of the limitation as set forth in the claims.

6. All further rejections are given in light of the specification as best understood in view of the previous objections and rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,843,541 to Bean et al. in further view of U.S. Patent 6,438,671 to Doing et al.

9. With regards to claim 1, Bean et al. teaches logical partitioning of data processing systems, through resource allocation. Bean et al. teaches the assignment of memory (column 1, lines 9-18, and 52-58), processors (column 1, lines 9-18, and 26-39), operating systems (or programming systems or guests, column 1, lines 9-18, and 44-55), and input/output (I/O) channels and subchannels (or adapters, column 1, lines 9-23), to different logical partitions (column 1, lines 6-23). Bean et al. also teaches that a hypervisor (column 1, lines 36-43) for controlling the resource allocation and any shared resources. The hypervisor (or host, see column 8, lines 2-8) intercepts I/O requests and makes adjustments so that the addresses used are in the area assigned to that partition (column 2, lines 11-40). Bean et al. teaches the use of

Art Unit: 2182

subchannels to connect a logically partitioned computer system to an I/O device, and this may be viewed as the bus bridge. Bean fails to explicitly teach a data transmission bus and a terminal bridge connected to a data transmission bus. However, the use of busses and bus bridges is well known in the computer arts to connect drives and other peripherals to a host bus, as is taught by Doing (Fig. 1, elements 105 and 110-115, column 7, lines 8-20). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the LPAR system of Bean with busses and bus bridges of Doing in order to create a more robust system which prevents access to unassigned system resources in order to support communication with a variety of storage and I/O devices.

10. With regards to claim 2, the PCI bus was a well-known specification often used in modern computer systems. PCI bridges were well known in the art at the time of invention to connect a PCI bus to a host bus.

11. Claims 3, 5, and 6, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,843,541 to Bean et al. and U.S. Patent 6,438,671 to Doing et al. as applied to claims 1-2 above, and further in view of the Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA).

12. With regards to claims 3 and 5, Bean et al. does not teach the use of DMA address ranges assigned to each IOA. It does teach the assignment of I/O channels and addresses to each of the partitions (column 1, lines 9-21 and column 2, lines 11-40). The AAPA teaches that the DMA range register facility (page 14, lines 17-21, of parent application) is well known and that known drivers assign DMA addresses (page 2, lines 19-27, of parent application). The DMA range registers function in the same way as the I/OA addresses, by blocking access to unassigned partition resources. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention

Art Unit: 2182

to combine the partition resource assignment of Bean et al. with the AAPA DMA range register facility in order to ensure that violations of partition boundaries do not occur in DMA transfers.

13. With regards to claim 6, the programmability of range registers, the programmable loading of range registers, and the loading of range registers is inherent to the use of the registers with the other system resources in the transferring of data across the busses.

14. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,843,541 to Bean et al. and U.S. Patent 6,438,671 to Doing et al. and the AAPA as applied to claims 1-3 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,584,530 to Kondo et al.

15. With regards to claim 4, Bean fails to teach an arbiter that selects an I/OA, and assigns a set of range registers based on a grant signal from the arbiter. Kondo et al. teaches an arbiter selects an I/OA for bus access (column 1, line 42, through column 4, line 64). The associated range registers, or DMA range registers, would be assigned along with the I/OA to use the data transmission bus as taught by Bean and the AAPA with regards to claims 3 and 5 above. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the arbiter to Kondo et al. with the partitioned resources of Bean in order to grant access requests in a highest priority to destinations assigned to the I/O means.

Double Patenting

16. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground

Art Unit: 2182

provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

17. Claim 1 is provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of copending Application No.

09/589,665. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the additional limitations are well known in the art. The parent application does not claim a data transmission bus or at least one terminal bridge connected to the data transmission bus. However, these elements are well known in computer systems. The inventive concept as set forth by the specification is the prevention of data transmission between an I/O adapter with a first logical partition and a memory location unassigned to the first logical partition, which is found in the claims of the parent application.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua D Schneider whose telephone number is (703) 305-7991. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A Gaffin can be reached on (703) 308-3301. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned (703)-892-9306.

Art Unit: 2182

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

JDS
August 21, 2003


KIM HUYNH
PRIMARY EXAMINER

8/22/03